

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain present in this application.

Claim 8 has been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 stands objected to for an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this informality has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al., U.S. Publication 2005/0087110. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 7 and 9 to contain allowable subject matter, and claims 1-5 to be allowable. As will be explained, the Kobayashi et al. reference should not reject claims 6 and 8. It is respectfully submitted that all claims in the instant application should be in condition for allowance.

In particular, the present invention claims priority to a Finnish application. The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of this priority document. This priority document has a priority date of March 31, 2003. The U.S. filing date of the instant application is March 19, 2004. Both of these dates precede the publication date of the Kobayashi et al. reference.

The Examiner has utilized a 102(e) rejection of this patent. However, the Kobayashi et al. reference is a National Phase of International Application WO 2004/046986. However, this PCT application was published in the Japanese language. As such, the Kobayashi et al. publication does not have a 102(e) date. It is inappropriate for the Examiner to utilize this reference in a 102(e) rejection. According to the PAIR page of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the

371(c) date for this Kobayashi et al. reference is August 30, 2004. This date is after the March 31, 2003 priority date and the March 19, 2004 filing date of the present application. The Examiner appears to be mistaken in utilizing this Kobayashi et al. reference. As such, the 35 USC 102(e) rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

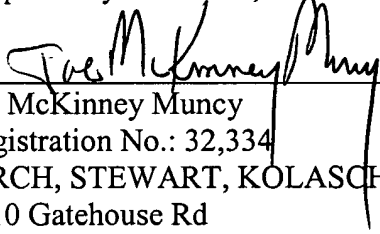
It is respectfully submitted that all claims in the instant application should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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